

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Kindly cancel claims 5 and 6 without prejudice.

1. (Original) A method of improving the operation of a test strip, said method comprising the steps of:

flexing the test strip.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising flexing the test strip so that it is positioned in multiple planes.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of creating ~~wherein flexing the test strip creates~~ pressure points at specific places on the test strip that enhances the function of the test strip.

4. (Currently Amended) An improved chemically-impregnated test strip, said test strip having micro-pores, the improvement comprising:

elongating the micro-pores thereby improving the capillary flow of any liquid that contacts the test strip, said elongating is made in the direction of the intended liquid flow.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) The improved test strip of claim 4 wherein the end of the test strip dipped into the liquid is tapered.